

DOS REVIEWED 21-Dec-2010: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION



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TAGS: CH, PFUR, IR

SUBJECT: CALL BY AMB BUSH ON PRINCESS ASHRAF

DEPARTMENT PASS TEHRAN AT DISCRETION - ALSO ASST SECY HABIB IN SYDNEY

1. ON MAY 21 AT 6:30 PM I CALLED ON PRINCESS ASHRAF WHO WAS LEAVING THAT EVENING FOR IRAN AFTER A VISIT TO NORTH KOREA AND PEKING. SHE WAS QUARTERED IN GUEST HOUSE 42, THE OLD AMERICAN LEGATION.

2. THE PRINCESS HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY PREMIER CHOU EN LAI AND TENG HSIAO-PING. SHE COMMENTED THAT CHOU EN LAI AND MAO TSE TUNG WERE CLEARLY NOT RUNNING THINGS. I TOLD HER THAT RECENT VISITORS FOUND CHOU TO BE VERY SHARP AND ALERT. SHE AGREED THAT HE WAS SHARP AND ALERT, BUT THAT HE LOOKED BAD AND THAT HE HAD HAD A HEART ATTACK.

3. SHE FOUND TENG TO BE QUITE STRONG AND FORCEFUL AND COMMENTED ON CHIAO KUAN HUA'S GRASP OF WORLD AFFAIRS.

4. THE PRINCESS MENTIONED TWICE THAT THE CHINESE WERE ANGRY WITH US ABOUT THE MAYAGUEZ. I TOLD HER I HOPED I WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO PRESENT OUR VIEWS TO THEM ON THIS QUESTION SOME TIME BECAUSE THERE WAS CLEARLY PROVOCATION THAT THE US COULD NOT STAND FOR. AT THIS POINT THE PRINCESS EXPRESSED HER CONCERN ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF THE US

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CONGRESS IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. I ASSURED HER THAT ON THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND CONGRESS WERE SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT OVERWHELMINGLY. (AFTER LISTENING TO TODAY'S VOA I HOPE THIS CONTINGUES TO BE THE CASE.) THE PRINCESS FOUND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAD SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENT SO STRONGLY.

5. WE DISCUSSED THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT IN DETAIL AND SHE SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT OUR STRONG ACTION WOULD CLEARLY BENEFIT OUR ALLIES AND IN THE LONG RUN MIGHT EVEN HAVE THE TACIT APPROVAL OF THE PRC. THE PRINCESS TWICE MENTIONED THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP'S RESPECT FOR PRESIDENT NIXON. SHE ALSO SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT THERE WAS NO UNFAVORABLE MENTION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER.

6. I ASKED ABOUT HER VISIT AND RECEPTION IN KOREA. SHE WAS CLEARLY PLEASED BY THE BIG TURNOUT AND RECEPTION IN KOREA. THE STREETS LINED WITH SMILING, WAVING DANCING PEOPLE GOT TO HER A LITTLE. SHE WAS REALISTIC IN HER ASSESSMENT OF THE KIM PERSONALITY CULT - NOT ENTHRALLED WITH THAT.

7. I DID NOT ASK HER ABOUT RUMORS THAT IRAN WAS BEING ASKED TO REPAY KOREA'S DEBT.

8. KIM IL SONG STRESSED HIS DETERMINATION TO SEE KOREA UNIFIED, BUT SURPRISINGLY, HE KEPT STRESSING PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION. THE PRINCESS MENTIONED THREE DIFFERENT TIMES KIM'S WILLINGNESS TO HAVE, INDEED DESIRE TO HAVE, FREE ELECTIONS TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF KOREA. IN SPITE OF THE OVERWHELMING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH COMPARED TO THE NORTH, KIM EMPHASIZED THAT HE WANTED FREE ELECTIONS AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE WOULD OVERWHELMINGLY VOTE FOR HIM AND AGAINST THE LEADERSHIP IN THE SOUTH. I ASKED ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SUPERVISION OF SUCH ELECTIONS BY THE UN. "NO" SAID SHE, THE KOREANS WANT THE UN OUT OF KOREA AND THE AMERICANS TOO. I ASKED ABOUT OTHER IMPARTIAL SUPERVISION OF ELECTIONS. SHE WAS UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER THEY WOULD ACCEPT ANY SUCH SUPERVISION. SHE USED THE WORD "PLURISCITE" SEVERAL TIMES.

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9. RANDOM TOPICS: PRC LEADERSHIP: THEY DISLIKED THE USSR MORE THAN THE USA.

10. THE PRINCESS WAS VERY TIRED AND HAD A SEVERE MIGRAINE HEADACHE. WHEN I KNEW HER AT THE UN SHE WAS OFTEN PLAGUED WITH SUCH HEADACHES.

11. I CONGRATULATED THE PRINCESS ON THE ROLE OF WORLD LEADERSHIP THAT IKAN HAD BEEN PLAYING. SHE WAS PLEASED BUT SHE "KNUCKED ON WOOD" AS IF TO INDICATE THINGS WERE GOING WELL NOW BUT PROBLEMS LAY AHEAD.

12. INTERESTING THOUGH NOT FLATTERING COMMENT BY THE PRINCESS: "WHY ARE YOU IN CHINA? ARE YOU IN EXILE?" "NO," I SAID. "I LIKE IT HERE, WANTED TO COME HERE, AND THIS RELATIONSHIP IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE US AND TO THE PRC". SHE BELIEVES THE LAST PART AND MAY HAVE BELIEVED THE FIRST. BUSH

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